

CLAIMS:

1. An osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus utilizing a panoramic radiograph of teeth, comprising:
  - 5           image region extracting means for extracting an image of a region including a specified portion in the panoramic radiograph of teeth;  
              skeleton processing means for finding a skeleton of the extracted image;  
              line extracting means for extracting only portions parallel to the tilt of the lower edge of the mandible from the found skeleton;
  - 10           binarizing means for binarizing an image including the skeleton so that lines of the skeleton are separated from the background; and  
              determining means for determining whether there is a risk of osteoporosis by classifying the binarized lines according to size.
- 15   The osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
          the determining means classifies the binarized lines into three groups according to size, and determines there is a risk of osteoporosis in a case where there is more than just a single line classified in the largest line group aside from the smallest line group.
- 20   3. The osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein  
          the image extracting means extracts an image of a rectangular region parallel to the tilt of the lower edge of the mandible, and  
          the line extracting means extracts horizontal portions of the lines.
- 25   4. A program designed to establish processing of the osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 through 3 for a computer system.